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THE KINGS MAIESTIES SPEECHES.

In this Great and Happy Parliament.

Novemb. 3. 1640.

Printed, Anno 1641.

His Majesties first Speech in Parliament, the 3. of *November*. 1640.

My Lords,

THe knowledge I had of the desires of my Scottish Subjects, was the cause of my calling the last Assembly of Parliament, wherein had I been beleeved; I sincerely think, that things had not faln out as now we see. But it is no wonder that men are so slow to beleeve that so great a sedition should be raised on so little ground. But now my Lords, and Gentlemen, the honour and safety of this Kingdom lying so neerly at the stake; I am resolved to put my self freely, and cleerly on the love and affections of my English Subjects, as these of my Lords that did wait on me at *York*, very well remember I there declared. Therefore my Lords, I shall not mention mine own interest, or that support I might justly expect from you, till the common safety be secured; though I must tell you I am not ashamed to say, those charges I have been at, have been meerly for the securing and good of this Kingdom, though the successe hath not been answerable to my desires. Therefore I shall onely desire you to consider the best way both for the safety and security of this Kingdom, wherein their are two parts chiefly considerable. First, the chastising out of the Rebels. And secondly, the other, in satisfying your just grievances, wherein I shall promise you to concurre so heartily and cleerly with you, that all the World may

ſee my intentions have ever been, and ſhall be, to make this a glorious and flouriſhing Kingdom. There are onely two things that I ſhall mention to you; Firſt, the one is to tell you that the Loan of money which I lately had from the City of *London*, wherein the Lords that waited on me at *York* aſſiſted me, will onely maintain my Army for two moneths from the beginning of that time it was granted. Now my Lords, and Gentlemen, I leave it to your conſiderations, what diſhonour and miſchief it might be, in caſe for want of money my Army be disbanded, before the Rebels be put out of this Kingdom. Secondly, the ſecuring the calamities the Northern people endure at this time; and ſo long as the treaty is on foot. And in this I may ſay not onely they, but all this Kingdome will ſuffer the harm; therefore I leave this alſo to your conſideration, for the ordering of theſe great affairs whereof you are to treat at this time. I am ſo confident of your love to me, and that your care is for the honour and ſafety of the Kingdom, that I ſhall freely and willingly leave to you where to begin: onely this, that you may the better know the ſtate of all the Affairs. I have commanded my Lord Keeper to give you a ſhort and free accompt of theſe things that have hapned in this interim, with this Proteſtation, that if this accompt be not ſatisfactory as it ought to be. I ſhall whenſoever you deſire, give you a full and perfect accompt of every particular. One thing more I deſire of you, as one of the greateſt means to make this a happy Parliament; That you on your parts, as I on Mine, lay aſide all ſuſpition one of another, as I promiſed my Lords at *York*; It ſhall not be my fault if this be not a happy and good Parliament.

His

His Majesties second Speech in Parliament the *Novemb.* 5. 1640.

My Lords,

I do expect that you will hastily make relation to the House of Commons, of those great affairs, for which I have called you hither at this time, and for the trust I have reposed in them, and how freely I put my self on their love and affections at that time; and that you may know the better how to do so, I shall explain my self concerning one thing I spake the last day. I told you the Rebells must be put out of this Kingdom; its true, I must needs call them so, so long as they have an Army that do invade us; and although I am under treaty with them, and I under my great Seal do call them Subjects, and so they are too, but the state of my Affairs in short is this. Its true, I did expect when I did will my Lords and great ones at *York*, to have given a gracious answer to all your grievances; for I was in good hope by their wisedomes and assistances to have made an end of that businesse, but I must tell you that my Subjects of *Scotland* did so delay them, that it was not possible to end there: Therefore I can no wayes blame my Lords that were at *Rippon*, that the treaty was not ended, but must thank them for their pains and industry, and certainly had they as much power as affections, I should by that time have brought these distempers to a happy period; so that now the treaty is transported from *Rippon* to *London*, where I shall conclude nothing without your knowledge, and I doubt not but by your approbation; for I do not desire to have this great work done in a corner, for I shall say

open all the steps of this mis-understanding, and causes of the great differences between Me and my Subjects of *Scotland*. And I doubt not but by your assistance to make them know their duty, and also by your assistance to make them return whether they will or no.

His Majesties Speech to both the Houses, *January* 25. 1640.

My Lords,

THe Knights, Citizens, Burgesses; The principall cause of my coming here at this time, is by reason of the slow proceedings in Parliament, touching which is a great deal of inconvenience.

Therefore I think it very necessary to lay before you the state of my affairs as now they stand, thereby to hasten (not interrupt) your proceedings.

First, I must remember you that there are two Armies, in the Kingdom, in a manner maintained by you, the very naming of which, doth more clearly shew the inconvenience th reof, then a better tongue then mine can expresse.

Therefore in the first place, I shall recommend unto you the quick dispatch of that businesse, assuring you that it cannot rest upon me.

In the next place I must recommend unto you the State of my Navy and Forts; the condition of both which is so well known unto you, that I need not tell you the particulars, onely thus much; they are the Walls and defence of this Kingdom, which if out of order, all men may easily judge what incouragement it will be to Our enemies,

enemies, and what dishearing to our friends.

Last of all, (and not of the least to be considered) I must lay before you the distractions that are at this present occasioned through the cause of Parliament; for there are some men that more maliciously then ignorantly, will put no difference between Reformation, and alteration of government.

Hence it cometh that divine Service is irreverently interrupted, and Petitions in an ill way given in, neither disputed nor denied. But I will enter into no more particulars, but shew you a way of remedy, by shewing you my cleer intentions, and some mark that may hinder this good work.

I shall willingly and cheerfully concur with you for the Reformation of all Innovations both in Church, and Common-wealth, and consequently that all Courts of Justice may be reformed according to Law. For my intentions is cleerly to reduce all things to the best and purest times as they were in the time of Queen *Elizabeth*.

Moreover, whatsoever part of my Revenew shall be found illegall or heavy to my Subjects, I shall be willing to lay down, trusting in their affections. Having thus cleerly and shortly set down my intentions, I will shew you some rubs, and must needs take notice of some very strange (I know not what tearm to give them) Petitions given in the name of divers Counties, against the established government of the Church, and of the great threatnings against the Bishops, that they will make them to be but a Cipher, or at least taken away.

If some of them have incroached too much upon the Temporalty (if it be so) I shall not be unwilling these things should be redressed and reformed, as all other abuses according to the wisdome of former times; so farre I shall go with you, no farther.

If upon serious debate you shall shew that Bishops have some Temporall Authority, not so necessary for the go-

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vernment of the Church, and upholding Episcopall Jurisdiction; I shall not be unwilling to desire them to lay it down, but this must not be understood, that I shall any way consent that their voyce in Parliament should be taken away; for in all the times of my Predecessors since the Conquest, and before, they have enjoyed it; I am bound to maintain them in it, as one of the fundamentall Institutions of this Kingdom.

There is one other Rock you are on, not in substance, but in service; and the form is so essentiall, that unlesse it be reformed, will split you on that Rock.

There is a Bill lately put in concerning Parliaments. The thing I like well to have frequent Parliaments, but for Sheriffes and Constables to use my Authority, I can no wayes consent unto.

But to shew that I desire to give you content in substance as well as in shew, that you shall have a Bill for doing thereof, so that it do not trench neither against my Honor, neither against the ancient Prerogatives of the Crowne concerning Parliaments, Ingeniously confesse, often Parliaments is the surest means to keep correspondency between Me and my People, that I do so much desire.

To conclude, now all that I have shewn you, the state of my Affairs, My own cleer intentions, and the Rocks I would have you shun.

To give you all contentment, you shall likewise finde by these Ministers, I have, or shall have, about me for the effecting of these my good intentions; which shall redouble the peace of the Kingdome, and content you all. Concerning the conference, you shall have a direct answer on Munday, which shall give you satisfaction.

His

His Majesties Speech to both Houses of Parliament in the *Lords* House, at the passing of the Bill for a Triennial Parliament, the sixteenth of *November*, 1640.

MY Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses of the House of Commons; you may remember when both Houses were with Me at the Banquetting House at *Whitehall*, I did declare unto you two Rocks I wished you to eschew, this is the one of them, and of that consequence, that I think never Bill passed here in this House of more favour to the Subjects then this is, and if the other Rock be as happily passed over as this shall be at this time, I do not know what you can ask, for ought I can see at this time, that I can make any question to yeeld unto: Therefore I mention this to shew unto you the sence that I have of this Bill, and obligation, as I may say, that you have to me for it, for hitherto, to speak freely, I have had no great incouragement to do it; if I should look to the outward face of your actions or proceedings, and not look to the inward intentions of your hearts, I might make question of doing it.

Hitherto you have gone on in that which concernes your selves to amend, and yet those things that meerly

concernes the ſtrength of this Kingdom, neither for the State, nor my own particular.

This I mention, not to reproach you, but to ſhew you the ſtate of things as they are, you have taken the Government almoſt in peeces, and I may ſay, it is almoſt off the hinges.

A skilfull Watchmaker to make clean his Watch, he will take it a ſunder, and when it is put together, it will go the better, ſo that he leave not forth then one pin in it.

Now as I have done all this on my part, you know what to do on your parts, and I hope you ſhall ſee cleerly that I have performed really what I expreſſed to you at the beginning of this Parliament, of the great truſt I have of your affections to me, and this is the great expreſſion of truſt, that before you do any thing for me, that I do put ſuch a confidence in you.

His

His Majesties Speech to both the Houses of Parliament.

February 3. 1640.

HAving taken into my serious consideration, the late Remonstrance made unto me by the House of Parliament, I give you this answer.

That I take in good part your care of the true Religion established in this Kingdome, from which I will never depart, as also for the tenderneſſe of my safety, and security of this State and Government: It is against my minde, that Popery or Superstition should any way encreaſe within this Kingdome, and will restrain the same by causing the Laws to be put in execution.

I am resolved to provide against the Jesuits and Papists, by setting forth a Proclamation with all speed, commanding them to depart the Kingdome within one Moneth, which if they fail, or shall return, then they shall be proceeded against according to the Laws.

Concerning *Rosettie*; I give you to understand, that the Queen hath alwayes assured me, that to her knowledge he hath no Commission, but onely to entertain a personall correspondence between her and the Pope, in things requisite for the Exercise of her Religion, which is warranted to her by the Articles of Marriage, which

give her a full Liberty of Conſcience; yet I have perſwaded her, that ſince the miſunderſtanding of the Perſons condition gives offence, ſhe will within a conveniene time remove him.

Moreover, I will take a ſpeciall care to reſtrain my Subjects from reſorting to Maſſe at *Denmark* houſe, Saint *James*, and the Chappel of Ambaſſadors.

Laſtly, concerning *John Goodman* the Prieſt, I will let you know the reaſon why I reprived him, that as I am enformed, neither Queen *Elizabeth*, nor my Father did ever avow, that any Prieſt in their times was executed meerly for Religion, which to me ſeems to be this particular caſe, yet ſeeing that I am preſſed by both Houſes, to give way to his, becauſe I will avoid the inconveniency of giving ſo great diſcontent to my people, as I conceive this Mercy may produce, therefore I do remit this particular Cauſe to both the Houſes: But I deſire them to take into their conſideration, the inconveniencies (as I conceive) may upon this occaſion fall upon my Subjects and other Proteſtants abroad, eſpecially ſince it may ſeem to other States to be a ſeverity, which ſurpriſe having thus repreſented, I think my ſelf diſcharged from all ill conſequence that may enſue upon the execution of this perſon.

His

His Majesties Letter to the Lords on the behalf of the Earl of *Strafford*, sent by the PRINCE.

My Lords,

I Did yesterday satisfie the Justice of the Kingdom by passing of the Bill of Attainder against the Earl of *Strafford*; but mercy being as inherent, and inseparable to a King as Justice. I desire at this time in some measure to shew, that likewise by suffering that unfortunate man to fulfill the naturall course of his life in a close imprisonment; yet so, that if ever he make the least offer to escape, or offer directly, or indirectly to meddle in any sort of Publique businesse; especially with me, either by Message, or Letter, it shall cost him his life without further Processe. This, if it may be done without the discontentment of my People, will be an unspeakable contentment to me.

To which end, as in the first place, I by this Letter do earnestly desire your approbation, and to endear it the more, have chosen him to carry it, that of all your House is most dear to me. So I desire that by a conference, you will endeavour to give the House of Commons contentment: Likewise assuring you, that the excuse of mercy is no more pleasing to me, then to see both Houses of Parliament consent for my sake, that I should moderate the severity of the Law, in so important a case.

I will not say that your complying with me, in this my intended mercy, shall make me more willing, but certainly t'will make me more cheerfull in granting your just grievances. But if no lesse then his life can satisfie my People, I must say *fiat justitia*. Thus again recommending the consideration of my intentions to you, I rest.

Whitehall the 11. of *May*, 1641.

Your unalterable and affectionate Friend,

CHARLES, *R.*

If he must dye, it were charity to Reprieve him till Saturday.

May 11. 1641.

THis Letter all written with the Kings own hand, the Peers this day received in Parliament, delivered by the hand of the Prince. It was twice read in the House, and after serious and sad consideration, the House resolved presently to send 12. of the Peers Messengers to the King; humbly to signifie, that neither of the two intentions expressed in the Letter, could with duty in them, or without danger to himself, his dearest Consort the Queen, and all the young Princes their Children, possibly be advised: With all which being done accordingly, and the reasons shewed to his Majesty, He suffered no more words to come from them, but out of the fulnesse

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of his heart to the obſervance of Juſtice, and for the contentment of his people, told them, that what he intended by his Letter was with an (if) if it may be done without diſcontentment of his People; if that cannot be, I ſay again the ſame that I writ, *fiat juſtitia*. My other intention proceeding out of charity for a few dayes reſpite, was upon certain information that His Eſtate was ſo diſtracted, that it neceſſarily required ſome few dayes for ſettlement thereof.

Whereunto the Lords anſwered, their purpoſe was to be Suitors to his Majeſty for favour to be ſhewed to his innocent Children; and if himſelf had made any proviſion for them, that the ſame might hold.

This was well-liking to his Majeſty, who thereupon departed from the Lords; at His Majeſties parting they offered up into his hands the Letter it ſelf which he had ſent; but He was pleaſed to ſay, my Lords, what I have written to you, I ſhall content it be Regiſtred by you in your Houſe. In it you ſee my minde, I hope you will uſe it to my honour.

This, upon return of the Lords from the King, was preſently reported to the Houſe by the Lord Privy Seal, and ordered, that theſe Lines ſhould go out with the Kings Letter, if any copy of the Letter were diſperſed.

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